

only need love and an opportunity to grow. The heartwarming stories of hope and love at PICC can be found on their website and in homes across this country. PICC provides safety, education, and a helping hand to those who need it and don't ask for much in return. PICC succeeds on a shoestring budget and a lot of hard work and dedication. Kent is a better place because of PICC. The Eighth District is a better place because of PICC. The state of Washington is a better place because of PICC, and our nation is a better place because of PICC.

In the end, why does Barbara Drennen do it? Why do the staff and volunteers at PICC spend countless hours holding babies, working in the community, and educating? Because everyone at PICC believes in their mission: protecting and serving the least among us. They believe in a purpose bigger than themselves. I'm so happy that mission and that purpose is still alive and well 20 years after it was conceived by Barbara Drennen and Barbara Richards. PICC's mission and purpose is Emma and Briar and the thousands of other children that enrich our lives every day. We're all thankful for that.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Chair, I applaud Chairman PAUL RYAN for his bold leadership in finally addressing solutions to our debt crisis in terms of deficit reduction and entitlement reform. There is no question that our health care entitlement programs are on an unsustainable path, and bold action must be taken if we are going to improve our nation's financial stability and preserve these health safety nets for future generations. Medicare costs are growing twice the speed of our economic growth, and elected officials who choose to turn a blind eye to our nation's economic distress are doing current and future beneficiaries an enormous disservice.

Chairman RYAN's budget plan shows a clear vision of our choice between two futures. I believe he has found innovative solutions to curb the unsustainability of Medicare and Medicaid, balance the budget, and pay off the debt, without raising taxes. Our social safety net is clearly ripping at the seams and reforms must be made if we intend to protect our most vulnerable populations. Many governors have urged Congress to instate block grants for their state health programs in exchange for more flexibility and freedom to find efficient, effective ways to cut Medicaid costs without denying essential health care services for those most in need.

Health care is clearly not a one-size-fits-all issue. In my home state of New York, Gov-

ernor Cuomo has already shown leadership and found innovative ways to control Medicaid costs in his Medicaid Redesign Team. New York has an extremely diverse demographic in our Medicaid pool, and transforming the federal government's role into a solid Medicaid block program could seriously hamper efforts by state agencies that are already working hard to redesign the program and cut costs on their own. A block program in New York could result in additional cuts in Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals and physicians, and possibly cut services to institutions that serve the disabled. In the last two years, the state has cut Medicaid reimbursement by \$5.3 billion, and further cuts would only create more hurdles in their efforts to provide quality health care to New Yorkers who need it.

If a block grant is adopted, I believe states should have the ability to opt out of the program in exchange for benchmarks to cut costs. New York should have a chance to continue their efforts to fundamentally redesign the Medicaid system. If New York is forced into a block program, the state may not have time to truly fix the system for the long haul. Nearly 686,000 hospital and health system jobs fuel New York's economic activity in communities across the state. Officials must balance the need for reform, and pragmatic approaches to secure services for current Medicaid beneficiaries.

HONORING MRS. MARSHA MORRIS  
FOR HER RETIREMENT AFTER 23  
YEARS OF EDUCATING THE  
YOUTH OF ILLINOIS

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marsha Morris as she retires after 23 years of exemplary teaching in Illinois School District 101. Educators like Mrs. Morris are responsible for shaping America's youth, and her passion for her profession has contributed to the development of countless students into civic-minded Americans. With great pride, I honor her today for her tireless dedication to public service.

In her 23 years as a Western Springs educator, Marsha Morris has been instrumental in the growth of students in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. After earning her undergraduate degree at Benedictine University, Mrs. Morris pursued graduate studies at Aurora University, graduating with a Master of Arts in Teaching. As an educator at Forest Hills Elementary School, and later as the Library Learning Center Director for Forest Hills and Field Park Schools, Mrs. Morris encouraged students to engage their curiosities, explore their creative sides, and above all, she encouraged every student to read. As an educator, Mrs. Morris channeled her love of books into the classroom where, by sharing her favorite stories with students, she inspired them to discover favorite stories of their own.

Mrs. Morris' excellence in teaching has encouraged and inspired many young men and women of Cook County to embrace and engage with the world around them. The Western Springs community has been fortunate to have Mrs. Morris, who dedicated her career to enriching the lives of children.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois and all those whose lives she has touched, I am proud to honor Mrs. Marsha Morris for her years of excellence in District 101. I thank her for dedicating her career to students aspiring to leadership and civic accomplishment, and I wish her a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Morris will be greatly missed by the students of District 101, but I know she will continue to be an asset to her community.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN  
FIRE SPRINKLER, LLC

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, LLC, as the 2011 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, and its founder and president, District of Columbia native Walter "Merrill" Smith.

After working in the fire protection industry for over 30 years, Merrill Smith started his own business, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, in 2005, and in only a few years, has built one of the fastest growing and most successful small businesses in the District of Columbia. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, a minority-owned D.C. business, installs fire protection systems in buildings throughout the Washington metropolitan region. Most recently, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler was successful in competing to install sprinkler systems in the vast Coast Guard building now under construction at the site of the future U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) headquarters, located on the old St. Elizabeths grounds. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler had already established a stellar track record on large projects, including the National Naval Medical Center, Gaylord National Harbor, and the Washington Nationals Stadium garage.

Merrill Smith sought to establish his own business not only for entrepreneurial reasons, but also because he wanted to provide jobs for residents in his hometown. His initial sources for employees are the District's Department of Employment Services, which serves D.C. residents seeking jobs, and the Road Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 669. Merrill Smith has embraced union labor and is about to train his first female apprentice.

Merrill Smith first built his own skills, and then built a business based on his first-hand knowledge of the industry. In the process, he has become an inspiration for young people and unemployed residents, and a model for the community for what hard work, with high quality, can accomplish.

Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is rendering outstanding service to the larger community, to the small business community, and to individuals in our community, all at the same time. Merrill Smith's company makes important contributions to the District of Columbia economy. In competing successfully for contracts, particularly high-quality federal contracts such as the DHS project, Merrill Smith has become a living example for local small businesses that aim high. In searching for minority and union laborers, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is both